

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

ADDISON. By W. J. COURTHOPE. [English Men of Letters Series.] 12mo, pp. 182. Harper & Brothers.

The life of Addison offers few materials for an entertaining narrative, and yet Mr. Courthope has made an interesting as well as an instructive book.

Its distinctive excellence is the clear statement which it presents of the condition of English literature when Addison began to write, and of the exact nature of his influence upon it. The opening chapter on "The State of English Society" and "Letters after the Restoration," the chapter on "The 'Tatler' and 'Spectator,'" and the closing survey of "The Genius of Addison," are the characteristic parts of the volume; and taken together they constitute an admirable study of an important literary period.

Addison is regarded, in this philosophical review, as "the chief architect of public opinion" at a time when two main currents of sentiment, represented respectively by harsh Puritanism and a vicious and trivial court, divided organized society.

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